



HIGH SPEED!

2

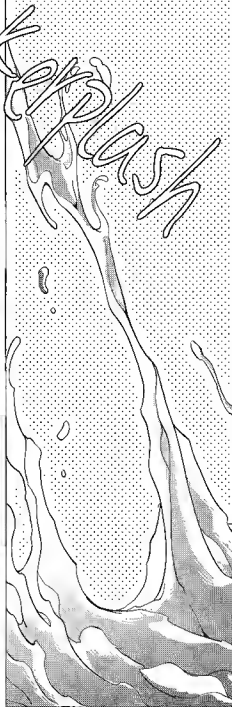
HIGH SPEED!

2

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Original Work: Ooji Kouji
Character Design: Nishiya Taishi



Chapter 5 ~ Stroke







REALLY?

Theoretically,
at least.

ONCE YOU'VE
SWUM A FAST
TIME, IT WON'T
EASILY SLOW.

ESPECIALLY
FOR US, IN
OUR GROW-
ING PERIOD.

MAYBE
IT'S A
FLUKE?

YUP, YOU
WERE FAST-
ER BEFORE.

THERE'S NO
SUCH THINGS
AS FLUKES OR
CHANCE IN
COMPETITIVE
SWIMMING.

AND I'M NOT
TALKING ABOUT
JUST OUR STAMINA
OR STRENGTH.

OUR MINDS AND OUR
SKILLS MATURE TOO.



NGH...

HMM...
I WONDER
WHAT IT
COULD BE,
THEN...

THAT'S WEIRD.
I PROMISE I
HAVEN'T CHANGED
MY SWIM STYLE!



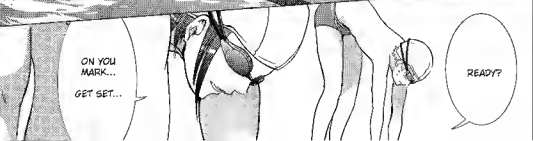
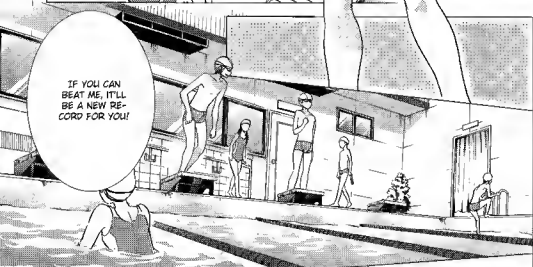
THEN THAT MUST
BE IT! IT'S THE
LUGE TO SWIM
FASTER THAN
AN OPPONENT!

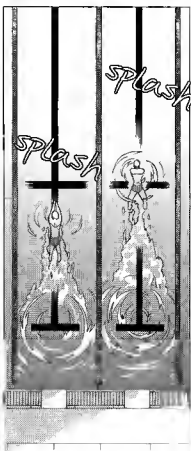
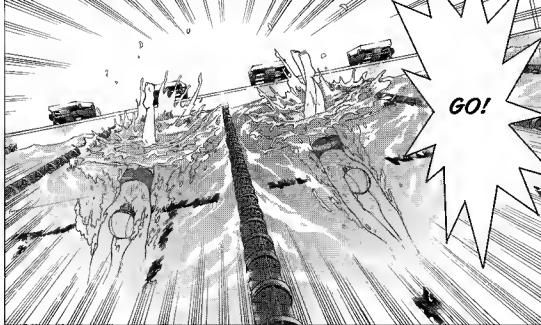
IT'S MAKING
YOU SWIM FASTER
WITHOUT YOU EVEN
REALIZING IT!

YUP, I DO!



DO YOU
LOOK AT
YOUR OP-
PONENTS
DURING
RACES?



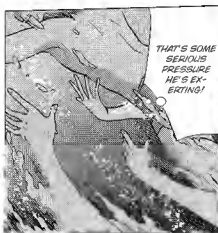




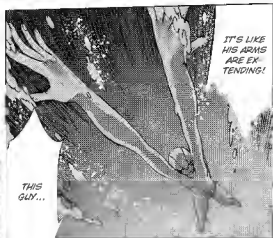


WHAT
IS THIS
FEELING?

WHAT THE-



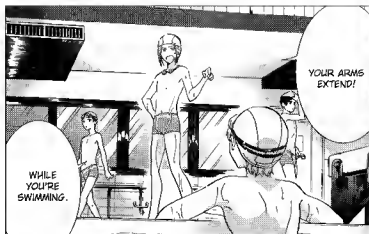
THAT'S SOME
SERIOUS
PRESSURE
HE'S EX-
ERTING!



IT'S LIKE
HIS ARMS
ARE EX-
TENDING!

THIS
GUY...





WHILE
YOU'RE
SWIMMING.

YOUR ARMS
EXTEND!



What the
hell am I
doing, get-
ting scared
of Nagisa?



YEAH! YOU SAW
HOW YOU CAUGHT
UP IN THE SECOND
HALF, RIGHT? THAT
WAS THEN.

THEY DO?

IT WAS?



THAT'S ALL!

HMM, HOW
I'M DEFINITELY
GONNA CATCH
UP! THAT KIND
OF THING.



I DIDN'T
NOTICE
AT ALL...

WHAT DO
YOU THINK
ABOUT WHEN
YOU SWIM?



He just blurted
that out without
even thinking...



HMM, I
DON'T REALLY
KNOW...

THINK YOU
CAN SWIM
LIKE THAT
AGAIN?



SURE!!

WANNA
RACE ME
ONE MORE
TIME?

For this
slender,
petite kid
to catch up
like that...



I did say
getting faster
was a matter
of feeling,
but to see it
so clearly be-
fore me now
is just...

THIS KID
DOESN'T
EVEN THINK
ABOUT...

...HIS OWN
FORM OR
RHYTHM...



It's not
easy to
find it,
after all.

Like just
when you think
you've got it,
you realize it's
different, or
you pass it by
entirely.



Everyone
has their
optimum
form.

I'm always
looking for it
when I swim.



It lies
beyond
that 50-
meter
mark.

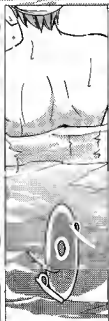
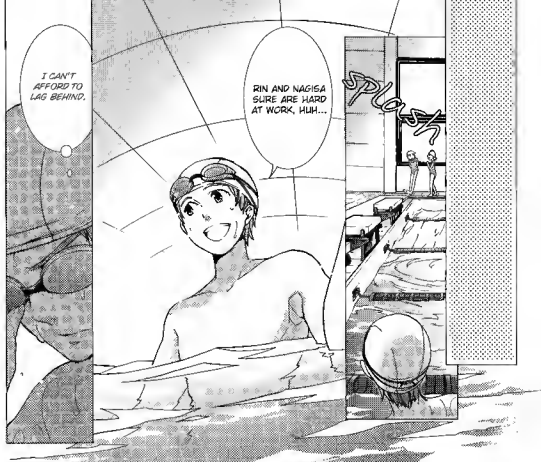
But I don't
know where
I should aim
to find it.



So...



For now,
I'll just repeat
my strokes.

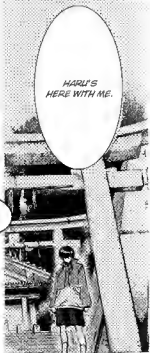




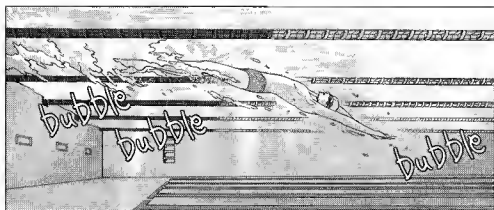
IT'S ALL RIGHT.



grip



HARU'S
HERE WITH ME.





I'm not
paralyzed!

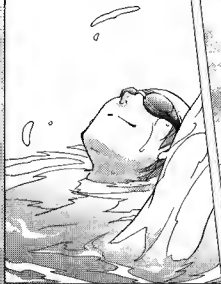
Is this
because I'm
looking up
at the sky
while I'm
swimming?

I'm not
running
away from
the water.

Even if I
swim with
all my
might...

Maybe I used to be
a sea monster...

Or a sea mammal...



I bet Haru would tell me I'm
being stupid if he heard me say that.

But...



Haru...

This is
how I was
always
meant to
swim.

Riding atop
the water.

!

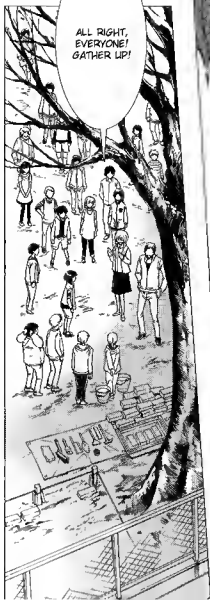
I'm finally
feeling the
water, Haru!











ALL RIGHT,
EVERYONE!
GATHER UP!

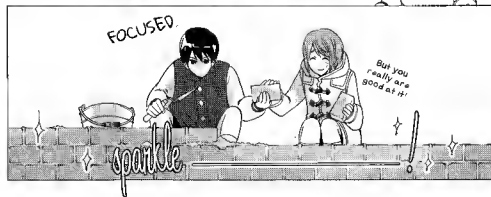
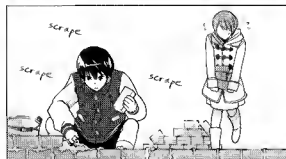
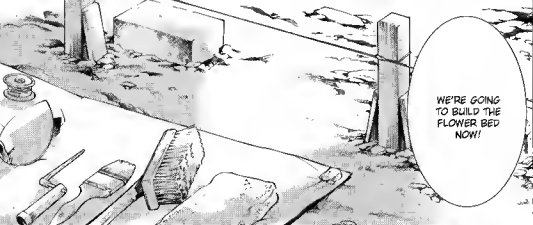
IT'S
HARD...

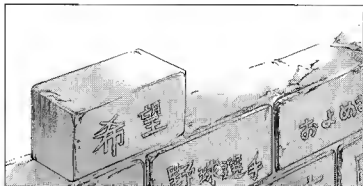
...to a long,
long time...

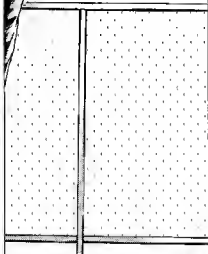


...UNDER-
STANDING
HARU...















He keeps saying we're a team, but you're still all alone once you dive in.

HARU!!



I BROUGHT SOME MORE CEMENT.



I WONDER IF WE CAN MAKE PRACTICE TODAY.



I JUST WANT HIM TO GET THE FEEL OF A REAL TOURNAMENT.

YOU KNOW, LIKE THE FOCUS AND TIMING OF IT ALL.

I JUST WANT TO HURRY AND GET INTO THE WATER...

I just don't have any particularly strong feelings about the relay.



But...

jog

jog

EVEN IF
IT MEANS
HAVING
OTHERS
INTERFERE
WITH ME,

COOPERATING
WITH THEM, AND
DOING SOMETHING
I DON'T WANT TO.

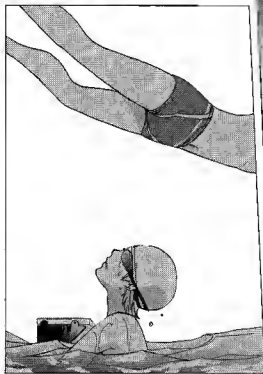


If there's
something
I don't yet
know of...

jog

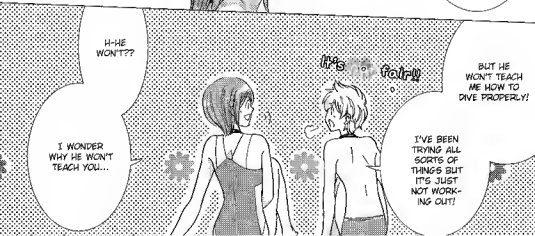
jog

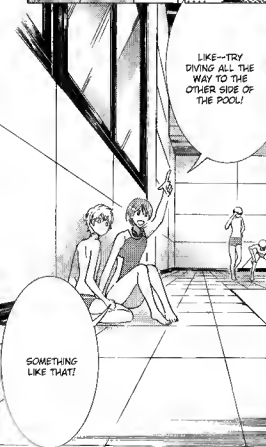
...then
maybe it's
worth doing.

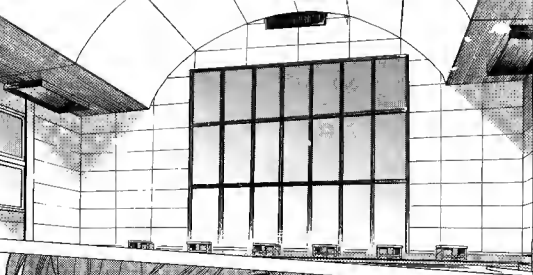


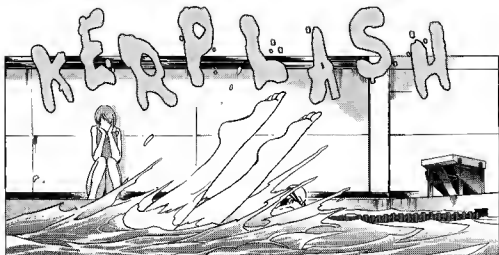










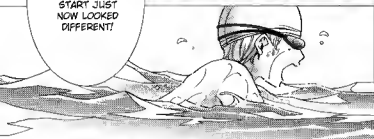




SOMETHING
ABOUT HIS
START JUST
NOW LOOKED
DIFFERENT!



ABOUT WHERE
HE SHOULD
BE LOOKING...



WHY WON'T
YOU TRAIN
NAGISA-KUN?




I TOLD HIM
HE SHOULD
LOOK AHEAD
IN THE POOL
BEFORE HE
DIVES IN.

OH, IS
THAT IT?
I SEE!





NAGISA ISN'T
THE TYPE TO
GET FASTER
WITH REGIMENT-
ED TRAINING.



EVEN IF HE
UNDERSTANDS
THE LOGIC OR
THEORY OF IT
IN HIS HEAD,
HE CAN'T EASILY
TRANSLATE THAT
INTO ACTION WITH
HIS BODY.



BUT IF IT'S
SOMETHING
HE FEELS IN
HIS *SOUL*...





THOUGH
HE PROBABLY
DOESN'T EVEN
REALIZE IT
HIMSELF...



...



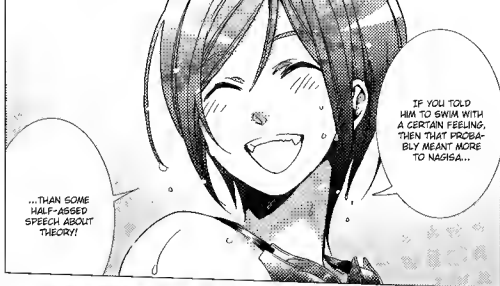
I FEEL
LIKE WHAT
YOU TOLD
HIM WAS
MORE ABOUT
FEELINGS.



I HOPE
I DIDN'T
SAY ANY-
THING OUT
OF LINE,
THEN...

NAH, I
THINK IT
HELPED!

THEN IT'LL
SHOW CLEAR
AS DAY IN HIS
SWIMMING.

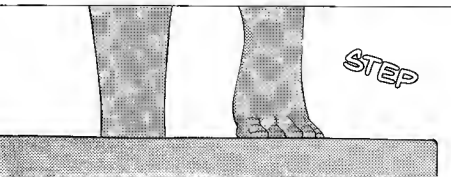


...THAN SOME
HALF-ASSED
SPEECH ABOUT
THEORY!

IF YOU TOLD
HIM TO SWIM WITH
A CERTAIN FEELING,
THEN THAT PROBABLY
MEANT MORE
TO NAGISA...



THANKS
A BUNCH!



STEP



Have I ever
faced swimming
that honestly...?



FEELING
WITH YOUR
HEART...



I WONDER...



Like them...?